



For Immediate Release

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Town Residents Recycle Over 1.5 Tons of Textiles in First Month of Recycling Program

(October 14, 2015) **East Hartford, CT** – Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc announced today that residents recycled over 3,000 pounds of textiles in the first month of the new textile recycling program. Through diverting these items from the waste stream, residents' teddy bears become vehicle seat cushions, old sneakers were reused as carpet padding and used clothing will be worn again or made into rags. As an added bonus, the Town receives a \$100 rebate from Bay State Textiles for each ton of textiles recycled while saving on waste disposal.

"Through programs like our textile, mattress and electronics recycling program, the Town has doubly benefited from reduced waste disposal costs while diverting items from our waste stream," noted Mayor Marcia Leclerc.

Items that can be recycled include: bed sheets, pillow cases, blankets, comforters, belts, boots, coats, curtains, draperies, dresses, flip-flops, hats, jackets, jeans, jerseys, pajamas, pants, purses, shirts, shoes, shorts, skirts, slippers, socks, stuffed animals, suits, sweaters, sweatpants, sweatshirts, table linens, ties, t-shirts and undergarments. Worn, torn, ripped and stained items are acceptable.

The Town East Hartford had entered into an agreement with Bay State Textiles, Inc. earlier this year to provide textile recycling and on August 10, 2015 began accepting textiles at the town transfer station. According to the company, 95 percent of textiles can be reused or recycled, but Connecticut residents are only reclaiming 15 percent of all unwanted textiles. Every year in Connecticut, over 200 million pounds of textiles are disposed of at incinerators or landfills.

A bulky waste permit is not required to recycle textiles at the Transfer Station. Place all clean, dry items in a plastic bag and show your ID or Driver's License to confirm that you are a Town of East Hartford resident.

Questions about the Town's solid waste program may be answered by calling (860) 291-7363. Information is also available on the website www.easthartfordct.gov

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